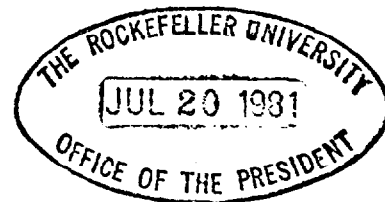




Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory

P.O. Box 100, Cold Spring Harbor, New York 11724



July 15, 1981

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
President
The Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
New York, NY 10021

Dear Josh:

I write now to you in your capacity as the Chairman of the President's Panel on Cancer.

I enclose some material relevant to the proposed dismissal of Peter Infante from OSHA because of his public stance that formaldehyde is a carcinogen. There is probably more than meets the eye, particularly the exchange between Higginson and Infante as well as the virulence expressed by Higginson in his letter to Auchter. I, however, fear that irrespective of Infante's apparent poor judgement in using OSHA stationery to needle (?) Higginson, that the effective end result will be an unequivocal warning to government scientists that they best remain officially silent when their opinions as scientists fly in the face of official administration policies.

Clearly, an independent investigation of formaldehyde by a body like the NAS is the only way to resolve it publicly.

Yours sincerely,

J-

J.D. Watson
Director

JDW/as
enclosures